

stimulus was signed. I ask again, Mr. Speaker, where are the jobs?

BRINGING DOWN HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, a lot of us have gotten a good chuckle over the last few days over the PricewaterhouseCoopers study of the impact of the Senate Finance Committee health reform bill on health insurance premiums. I mean, after all, after only a few days, they had to come out and say, well, we really didn't analyze the whole bill, and in fact if some of the cost reform measures were put into place, we would save money.

But they missed the important point. The most important point is that the Senate Finance Committee bill doesn't include the public option that provides real competition for America's health insurance companies. The House bill, H.R. 3200, does include that public option competitive force.

As I was home over the weekend, I talked to many people who just opened their renewal forms from their insurance companies and saw increases projected of 20, 25 and 30 percent. That is why the public option is so important.

We can bring down health insurance costs and we can provide competitive pressure on the health insurance companies if we adopt the public option in the House bill.

MEDIA GIVING PRESIDENT A FREE PASS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, unemployment under President Obama is at a 26 year high. The last time unemployment was this high was when President Reagan took office.

Despite the similar unemployment figures during the Obama and Reagan Administrations, the media have treated President Obama far more favorably than they treated President Reagan, according to an analysis by the Business and Media Institute. BMI found that 91 percent of the stories mentioning the Reagan Administration and unemployment were negative, while only 7 percent of the Obama administration stories were negative. That is absolutely astounding. Furthermore, the networks connected the Reagan White House to negative job numbers almost twice as often as they have the Obama administration.

Why is the media giving President Obama a free pass? The media should report the facts, not play favorites.

PASS COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday, America's Health Insurance Plans, the trade group representing the largest health insurance companies in this country, released a report. The insurance companies contend that health insurance reform will raise premiums on families by as much as \$4,000 in the next 10 years.

I am here to tell you this morning, Mr. Speaker, that this is simply not true. Just last week, the Tax Foundation, a nonpartisan tax research group, released a report that said middle-class American families will see a savings of about \$1,900 from the House's health reform bill.

Insurance companies are worried that health insurance reform is going to cut into their profits. This report is a last-ditch effort to stop this Congress from providing real relief to the millions of Americans who already are struggling with the high cost of health insurance.

Even the company hired to produce the report has issued a statement saying that they produced a skewed report that analyzes only part of the bill because that is what the insurance industry paid them to do. That company has since distanced itself from this report.

This report completely ignores critical policies that hold down the cost of health insurance, such as the grandfather policy that allows you to keep the plan you have, affordability credits, and the health insurance exchange.

PROVIDING MORE FREEDOM AND BETTER HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICANS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I respect the President of the United States of America. I pray for this President often in my private devotions. But after months of extraordinary public opposition to a government takeover of health care, opposition that spontaneously drew more than 1 million people to the West Front of this Capitol just one month ago, President Obama spoke words this weekend that were, frankly, hard to take.

He said in his radio address, "What is remarkable is not that we have had a spirited debate about health insurance reform, but the unprecedented consensus that has come together behind it."

Unprecedented consensus that has come together behind a government takeover of health care? Well, maybe here in Washington, D.C., but not across America.

There is an unprecedented consensus. The American people are fed up with runaway Federal spending and government takeovers. And now that the committee work is done and both chambers of the House and Senate are

headed to the back rooms to write up health care reform, let's home and let's pray that the unprecedented consensus that will shape this bill will be based upon the consensus of the American people for more freedom and lower health care costs, and not the consensus in Washington for more government and higher taxes.

□ 1030

HAPPY HALLOWEEN TO THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today just weeks before Halloween to unmask the health insurance industry. At long last they've revealed themselves to the American people as profit-mongers and protectors of CEO salaries.

For months, the industry engaged in a game of pretense. They danced with the President, the Congress and the American people, pretending that they care about reform. Now we see the industry and their lobbyists for what they are: a little shop of horrors. They're so opposed to reform that they're making up their own data, manipulating the results, and writing a so-called independent report to threaten the American people with increased premiums.

Mr. Speaker, this industry is not interested in health care or reform. For them it's profits, profits, and more profits at the expense of millions of Americans. Enough.

We have one message for the insurance industry, its lobbyists and millionaire CEOs: with or without you, we will achieve quality, affordable, and accessible health care for all Americans, with choice. What they've done is proved the need for a robust public health insurance option for real competition, affordability and accountability for the industry.

Let me close by thanking the health insurance industry for delivering this gift that proves that they can't be trusted. It's time for the industry to turn in their costumes. Happy Halloween. We're on to you.

HONORING THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD 81ST BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

(Mr. REICHERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues this morning in honoring the members of the Army National Guard 81st Brigade Combat Team and Air National Guard of the State of Washington on the completion of their recent deployment to Iraq.

These soldiers and their families have shown us the sense of duty, the sense of honor, and the sacrifice that we all aspire to and admire. Many of them know the pain of losing someone, a soldier, a fellow warrior, giving everything to defend the freedoms that we cherish in this country each and every day. And all of them know the perils of deployment, time away from their families, their children, their community, and possibly the ultimate sacrifice, their life.

This government comes here and performs its work each and every day. We can debate the issues each day because of the dedication of these soldiers and their families. And today, though it's not enough, we say thank you.

CONGRATULATING ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church as they celebrate their 50th anniversary as a congregation during the month of October.

As the first Greek Orthodox Church in southern Nevada, St. John has welcomed new Americans of Greek descent to Las Vegas and helped them feel at home in the community. St. John has educated thousands of children in the rituals and faith of the Greek Orthodox Church, ensuring the strength and vitality of the doctrine. Over the past 50 years, the church has expanded from a small group of patrons to a large community meeting in a beautiful church in the Third District.

Today, the church has a vibrant membership and is host to a community center and educational facility. The church is active in social justice projects that benefit children, seniors, the sick, and the poor. The church hosts regular events celebrating Greek heritage such as folk dancing and Easter egg hunts. And there's an annual Greek food festival in Las Vegas which is famous throughout the valley for its wonderful music, camaraderie, and the best food outside of Athens.

I again congratulate St. John the Baptist Church and the Greek Orthodox community for their 50 years of success, and I wish them 50 more.

NET NEUTRALITY

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to point out a timely editorial on net neutrality that ran recently in *The Washington Post*, and I'll submit it for the RECORD, "The FCC's Heavy Hand," that ran on Monday, September 28, 2009. This editorial

makes good points, but the bottom line is one I have been making since this issue came up so many years ago. The broadband marketplace has been, is, and will remain one of the most competitive areas in our economy.

Today, if you don't like your cable Internet, you switch to your phone company service. If you need mobility you can't get from your wire-line phone company, you purchase a wireless broadband plan. If you don't like one wireless provider's broadband plan, you ask the guy sitting next to you surfing the Web in the park who he uses for their wireless broadband, and you switch to that company.

Why do we have options? Because broadband companies have invested billions of dollars to build the best networks they can to attract as many customers as they can. Why would they block applications or content when they know the customer they're interfering with could just switch to another provider? They won't, as long as that customer isn't harming the network.

Mr. Speaker, the contrast is here. We should look at why the government needs to do such as addressing health care, and prices are spiraling out of control. Tens of millions of Americans have no choice on health care and having insurance, whereas, in the broadband market, there is plenty of competition and companies are competing. There could not be a more stark contrast for where government must act, and where competition in the marketplace is benefiting consumers, driving investment, and creating jobs. Further regulation is not the answer to keeping the Internet open; fostering competition and investment in broadband infrastructure is.

PRESIDENTS REAGAN AND OBAMA

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I've listened to 1 minutes here, and some of my Republican colleagues have made comments I listened to. And one who I respect tremendously talked about President Reagan and President Obama, and certainly they have a lot in common. They're both dynamic speakers and great communicators. Both of them have had high unemployment rates during their first year in office.

But the commonality is that those high unemployment rates were caused by their predecessors. And the press properly pointed out that Jimmy Carter's failed policies in the late 1970s and George Bush's failed policy at the beginning of this century were the cause of the economic malaise that each of these great communicators, Presidents Reagan and Obama, found themselves with.

Each will find that the economies will improve. Reagan did, and Obama will, and this Congress is helping to improve this economy.

Another gentleman talked about health care and said we should pray. I'm Jewish, and at our Yom Kippur holiday it's said that we should pray for national leaders that have a government that is compassionate and just. I believe that compassion and justice dictates that we have a health care plan and take care of everybody. I think it's the basis of the Judeo-Christian philosophy.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 846. An act to award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, in recognition of his contributions to the fight against global poverty.

S. 1510. An act to transfer statutory entitlements to pay and hours of work authorized by the District of Columbia Code for current members of the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division from the District of Columbia Code to the United States Code.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill (H.R. 1016) "An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide advance appropriations authority for certain accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that pursuant to section 276n of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints the following Senator as Chairman of the United States-China Interparliamentary Group conference during the One hundred Eleventh Congress:

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY).

The message also announced that pursuant to Executive Order 12131, renewed by Executive Order 13446, the Chair reappoints and appoints the following Members to the President's Export Council:

Reappointment:

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN).

Appointment:

The Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) vice the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.